

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A method for securing first and second tissues with a suture anchor comprising the steps of:

forming a borehole in the first tissue;

threading a suture through the second tissue for forming a suture loop in ~~the suture with the second tissue thereby secured~~ knotlessly securing the second tissue in the loop, the loop defining two suture portions;

attaching the two suture portions to the anchor whereby at least one of the two suture portions is threaded through the anchor and initially movable with respect to the anchor; and

providing a force to a shaft of the anchor, the force causing clamping of the at least one of the two suture portions in the anchor and deformation of a deformable portion of the anchor, the deformation causing the deformable portion to engage a wall of the borehole thereby to secure the suture anchor to the first tissue and the loop knotlessly holding the second tissue to the suture anchor; and

further comprising providing a convoluted path for the at least one of the two suture portions in the anchor to assist in securement of the suture portion in the suture anchor,

wherein the step of clamping comprises providing a spacing between two clamping members in the anchor and frictionally engaging the at least one of the two suture portions between the clamping members when the force is applied to the suture anchor.

Claims 5-6 (canceled).

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the deformable portion includes at least one set of proximally directed deformable fingers which upon deformation are directed radially into the wall of the borehole.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising providing a frangible connection in the shaft for separating the anchor from a discardable portion of the shaft upon provision of a preset force to the shaft.

Claims 9-10 (canceled).

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of attaching comprises threading the at least one of the two suture portions through the anchor whereby the at least one of the two suture portions upon application of the force to the anchor is clamped between first and second clamping portions, and further wherein a second of the two suture portions comprises an end of the suture and the step of attaching comprises fixedly securing the end of the suture to the anchor.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of attaching the second of the two suture portions is performed during manufacture of the suture anchor.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of threading the at least one of the two suture portions through the anchor further comprises the steps of:

providing the at least one of the two suture portions through aligned openings in the shaft and a concentric member surrounding the shaft prior to proximal movement of the shaft; and thereafter

moving the shaft proximally so that said opening in said shaft is at least partly obstructed by said concentric member, thereby causing clamping of the at least one of the two suture portions between the concentric member and the shaft.

14. (currently amended) A method for securing first and second tissues with a suture anchor comprising the steps of:

forming a borehole in the first tissue;

threading a suture through the second tissue for forming a suture loop in ~~the suture with the second tissue~~ thereby ~~secured~~ knotlessly securing the second tissue in the loop, the loop

defining two suture portions;

the threading is performed by

providing the at least one of the two suture portions through aligned openings in the shaft and a concentric member surrounding the shaft prior to proximal movement of the shaft, the at least one of the two suture portions being initially movable with respect to the anchor, and thereafter

moving the shaft proximally so that said opening in said shaft is at least partly obstructed by said concentric member, thereby causing clamping of the at least one of the two suture portions between the concentric member and the shaft, and

a second of the two sutures portions comprising an end of the suture being fixedly secured at the end of the suture to the anchor;

providing a force to a shaft of the anchor,

the force causing clamping of the at least one of the two suture portions in the anchor and deformation of a deformable portion of the anchor, the deformation causing the deformable portion to engage a wall of the borehole thereby to secure the suture anchor to the first tissue and the loop holding the second tissue to the suture anchor; and covering the opening in the shaft by said concentric member upon performance of the step of proximal movement of the shaft thereby causing clamping of the at least one of the two suture portions between the shaft and concentric member in a convoluted path.

15. (original) The method anchor of claim 14, wherein the convoluted path is U-shaped.

16. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of attaching the second of the two suture portions comprises providing a knot in the end of the suture, disposing the knot in a recess between the shaft and a retainer member surrounding the shaft to fix the second of the two suture portions securely to the anchor.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising locking said deformable portion and shaft together to ensure that said at least one of the two suture portions is securely held to said anchor.

Claims 18-19 (canceled).

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising providing a tension force on at least one of the two suture portions forming the loop to draw up the second tissue against the first tissue prior to clamping the at least one of the two suture portions in the suture anchor.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising a step of providing spacing between the shaft and the concentric member sized so as to clamp the at least one of the two suture portions therebetween.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the spacing is such that the at least one of the two suture portions is compressed between the shaft and concentric member.

Claims 23-24 (canceled).

25. (new) A method for securing first and second tissues with a suture anchor comprising the steps of:

forming a borehole for engaging the suture anchor in the first tissue;

forming a suture loop defining two suture portions through the second tissue, thereby securing the second tissue in the loop;

attaching the two suture portions to the suture anchor whereby at least one of the two suture portions is threaded through the suture anchor and initially movable with respect to the suture anchor;

clamping the at least one of the two suture portions in the suture anchor; and

securing the suture anchor to the first tissue,

wherein the loop clamped to the suture anchor knotlessly secures the second tissue to the first tissue.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein the first tissue is bone and the second tissue is soft tissue.

27. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein the suture anchor comprises a shaft, a deformable portion, and two clamping members, and wherein the step of clamping is achieved by providing a force to the shaft of the suture anchor.

28. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the force provided to the shaft of the suture anchor deforms the deformable portion of the suture anchor causing the deformable portion to engage a wall of the borehole.

29. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of clamping comprises providing a spacing between the two clamping members and frictionally engaging the at least one of the two suture portions between the clamping members when the force is applied to the shaft of the suture anchor.